Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 OMB-01 AID-05 /042 W

-----270956Z 062546 /10

R 261930Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBWCSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4427
INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 2491

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, ES, XK

SUBJECT: U.S. ASSISTANCE ON COFFEE RUST

REF: SAN JOSE 2297

1. FROM EL SALVADOR, IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL THAT WORST APPREHENSIONS OF COSTA RICA'S FERNANDO CASTRO ARE JUSITIFIED.

COFFEE PRODUCTION IN EL SALVADOR IS GNERALLY SOPHISTICATED AND PRODUCTIVITY, BASED ON FIGURES FROM EARLY SEVENTIES, IS CLOSE TO COSTA RICAN AVERAGE. GOES SEEMS WELL-PREPARED TO COMBAT RUST WHEN IT APPEARS. NICARAGUANS ALSO ARE DOING CREDITABLE JOB. GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT RUST CONTROL PROGRAM IN EL SALVADOR WOULD ADD ABOUT \$200 PER HECTARE TO COST OF PRODUCING COFFEE. ECONOMIC EFFECT WOULD OBVIOUSLY VARY WITH PRODUCTIVITYPER HECTARE AND MIGHT RESULT IN MARGINAL PRODUCERS ABANDONING COFFEE PRODUCTION. HOWEVER, A PRODUCTIVITYINCREASE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PHENOMENON SIMILAR TO THAT MENTIONED BY CASTRO MIGHT OCCUR WITH MORE EFFICIENT PRODUCERS. IN SUM, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT OVERALL IMPACT ON PRODUCTION BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT COFFEE PRODUCTION WILL NOT BE "WIPED OUT" IN EL SALVADOR.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE DOUBT THE NEED FOR US TO TAKE LEAD IN THIS MATTER. CA COUNTRIES ARE CAPABLE OF FINANCING AND

ORGANIZING THEIR OWN PROGRAM AND HAVE STRONG ECONOMIC MOTIVATION TO DO SO. US EXPERTISE SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ON REIMBURSABLE OR COMMERCIAL BASIS. LOZANO

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Message Attributes

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Subject: U.S. ASSISTANCE ON COFFEE RUST

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, ES, XK, US

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